

TRIAD News



*A cooperative effort between District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz
and Sheriff Joseph D. McDonald, Jr.*



Special points of interest:

- TRIAD identifies problem areas, develops and implements community-wide solutions.
- TRIAD reaches out to seniors to reduce the unwarranted fear of crime.
- TRIAD provides a forum to discuss crime related needs and concerns of seniors.

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The Second Annual TRIAD Conference

The Second Annual Plymouth County Triad Conference, co-sponsored by the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office and the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, was an enormous success.

The conference, held on Wednesday, October 20, 2004 at the Marshfield Council on Aging, brought approximately 200 seniors, law enforcement, public safety officials and area service providers together for this one event.

After welcoming remarks from District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz, conference participants had their choice of attending three concurrent workshops. The workshops addressed areas of fire safety; developing successful S.A.L.T. Councils; and how S.A.L.T. Councils can benefit law enforcement.

Our keynote speaker, James Wright, the Director of the National Association of TRIADs, Inc., explained the origins of TRIAD. He described the concept of TRIAD as a national community policing program which was designed to help keep seniors safe from crime, and to reduce the unwarranted fear of crime that many seniors experience. He congratulated the residents of Plymouth County for adopting the TRIAD initiative and becoming a part of the national trend of putting our seniors first, and making a strong commitment that will help keep our seniors safe.

Hanson and Marshfield become TRIAD communities

The towns of Hanson and Marshfield demonstrated their support for the Plymouth County TRIAD initiative by signing a Cooperative Agreement to formally establish TRIAD in their respective communities. Hanson and Marshfield now join the town of Bridgewater, and the City of Brockton as established TRIAD Communities.

“Cells for Seniors”

The Plymouth County TRIAD is proud to introduce “Cells for Seniors”. “Cells for Seniors” is a program that provides seniors with a cell phone for emergency situations. The cell phones have 9-1-1 capabilities only. They can not receive incoming calls, nor can they make outgoing calls. They can only connect with 9-1-1 operators. They are designed to be used in an emergency situation. The cell phones are provided to your local Council on Aging. The COA is responsible for dispersing the phones to qualifying seniors in their communities. The cell phones are donated by the public, and are offered to seniors at no charge. If you are interested in donating an operative old or unused cell phone, along with its charger for this program, please contact Barbara Faherty at the District Attorney’s Office, 508-584-8120.

The “Are you okay?” Program– “RUOK?”

The Are you okay program is offered free of charge to every senior in Plymouth County through the Plymouth County TRIAD initiative. It is a computer generated telephone calling system that checks on the well-being of participating seniors every day.

The service operates from a specialized computer that is located at the Sheriff’s Department. It makes an automated telephone call at the same time, each day to every senior that has signed up for the program. If the telephone is busy, or is not answered, the computer activates a call back in five minutes. If the phone goes unanswered a second time or is still busy, an alert is generated.

This alert prompts the RUOK? officer on duty to call a designated family member or friend to check on the senior. If the designated person is unavailable, the RUOK? officer will call the local police, who will then dispatch an officer to the home.

If you are interested in enrolling in the RUOK program, please call Officer Carol Schneider, at 1-800-622-4300.

“D.E.C.I.D.E. Safety Tip”

“Intuition”

Intuition is often referred to as that “funny feeling”, “little voice”, or “sixth sense”

It is a built in alarm that we all have that alerts us when something is wrong.

When a stranger approaches you on the street, it is very important to trust your instincts.

Be cautious if a stranger asks you personal questions, Don’t be afraid to tell them that is none of their business.

They could be collecting information about you to use in a scam at a later date.



TRIVIA

Q: *What is computer generated, arrives at the same time each day, and offers you piece of mind?*

A: *A phone call from the “Are You Okay Program”.*

**“Remember...
Every second counts!”**

Plymouth County
TRIAD
Newsletter

The Student/Elder Connection

Ten Weeks Between Generations Program

“helping to bridge the gap between teens and elders”

The Student—Elder Connection has been established to foster understanding and develop lasting relationships between high school students and elders in Plymouth County. This program matches up students and elders that converse over the telephone for a ten week period. The students and elders learn about each other, and share their experiences. A culmination luncheon is held at the end of the ten weeks, to afford the students and elders a chance to meet in person. Students can become involved in this program through their high school or numerous community groups. Elders can become involved in this program through their local council on aging.

Program benefits:

- ✿ Provides a healthy connection for elders and teens
- ✿ Reduces isolation of the elders
- ✿ Involves students in community service
- ✿ Provides role models for the students
- ✿ Builds new and lasting friendships
- ✿ Breaks-down generational barriers
- ✿ Brings the community together
- ✿ Provides students with a living history

Hanson TRIAD recommends

“Emergency Beacon Flashing Device”

The Emergency Beacon Flashing Device is perfect for any home. Especially those with seniors, children, or people living alone. The device is used with a standard 60-Watt light bulb. It has been designed for use in porch lights, outdoor lanterns, and lamps inside your home that are visible from the outside.

Once the device is activated, (by flipping your light switch twice), it will flash in a strobe light fashion for two hours. The strobe of the light will alert neighbors and passersby of a potential emergency at your home while also providing a signal for emergency crews. Most importantly, once you have called for help, and activated the light, you will not have to wait outside to signal your location. The strobe can be easily shut off, by turning the light switch off.



The Beacon Emergency Flashing Device



Coming Soon... “Project Lifesaver”



Project Lifesaver is an electronic tracking system for patients with Alzheimer’s disease, Autism, and individuals that have a history of wandering away from home. It is a new program that will assist local police in the search and rescue of missing individuals. The equipment, purchased through a grant, comes directly from Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver is a nationally recognized non-profit organization with a history of successful rescues.

An elite team in Plymouth County has been specially trained in search and rescue, the use of the electronic tracking equipment, as well as the methods necessary to communicate with persons afflicted with the above mentioned disease or disorder. This is an important component as the missing individual will often be disoriented, anxious and untrusting. The elite team is trained to approach the person, gain their trust, put them at ease to ensure a safe trip home.

How does Project Lifesaver (PLS) work?

The PLS equipment consists of two primary components: an electronic wristband, which looks similar to a wristwatch, and a receiver which tracks the signal emitted from the wristband. The battery in the wristband will provide a signal for 30-45 days.

Enrollees of the program are fitted with a wristband. When an enrollee is reported missing, the elite team will be dispatched to the scene. The equipment will pick up the signal from up to a mile away on land, and at a greater distance from the air.

Using the system’s directional capabilities, the search team can home in on the signal’s source and locate the individual. Currently, there have been 1073 rescues across the nation, which indicates a 100% success rate. The average time of a rescue is under 30 minutes!

In addition to ensuring the safety of the enrollees, PLS brings reassurance to their caregivers and family members. This program offers an added layer of comfort, knowing that if the enrollee does wander, he or she can be found quickly.

For more information on the Plymouth County TRIAD, Please contact
Barbara Faherty
Director of Community Relations,
Plymouth County District Attorney’s Office
508-584-8120.



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